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Bogdan 2-1-1-1**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a firmware development process, comprising:

archiving a firmware file containing at least one of firmware source code and firmware object code in an archive; and

assigning a status to the firmware file corresponding to a stage in the development process, wherein the status is also stored in the archive; and

assigning a part number to the firmware file that provides an indication that the firmware file is ready to be burned onto a chip and wherein the firmware file cannot be accessed to be burned onto a chip if the part number is not associated with the firmware file.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a work history of the firmware file in the archive.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the status is one selected from a private status, a test status, and a public status.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the private status corresponds to a design stage in the development process, the test status corresponds to a reviewing stage, and the public status corresponds to a manufacturing stage.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein at least one of the private status and the test status restricts access to the firmware file to at least one authorized user.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the firmware file contains source code and object code, and wherein the method further comprises compressing the source code and object code before the archiving step.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising assigning a part number to the firmware file.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising saving edits to the firmware file.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving at least a portion of the firmware file from the archive.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the retrieving step comprises:
selecting whether to retrieve the object code or both the object code and the source code;
and
retrieving based on the selecting step.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the selecting step further comprises restricting retrieval of the source code to at least one authorized user.

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12. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a firmware development process, comprising:

saving a firmware source code and a firmware object code in a firmware file;
archiving the firmware file in an archive;
saving edits to the firmware file; and
assigning a status selected from a private status, a test status, and a public status to the firmware file,

wherein the status is also stored in the archive, wherein the private status corresponds to a design stage in the development process, the test status corresponds to a reviewing stage, and the public status corresponds to a manufacturing stage, and wherein the private status and the test status restrict access to the firmware file to at least one authorized user, and wherein assigning the public status includes assigning a part number to the firmware file that provides an indication that the firmware file is ready to be burned onto a chip and wherein the firmware file cannot be accessed to be burned onto a chip if the part number is not associated with the firmware file.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising storing a work history of the firmware file in the archive.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising compressing the source code and object code before the archiving step.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising assigning a part number to the firmware file.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising retrieving at least a portion of the firmware file from the archive.

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17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the retrieving step comprises:
selecting whether to retrieve the object code or both the object code and the source code;
and
retrieving based on the selecting step, restricting retrieval of the source code to at least
one authorized user.

18. (Currently Amended) A firmware management system, comprising:
a firmware management tool that assigns a part number to a firmware file when coding in
the firmware file is ready to be burned onto a chip such that the firmware file cannot be used to
be burned onto a chip if the assigned part number is not associated with the firmware file;
a memory that stores a plurality of firmware files and that is accessible by the firmware
management tool; and
a user interface for accessing the firmware management tool.